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AROUND THE WORLD

New Spy Scandal in Britain

LONDON — Another major British spy scandal and charges of a government cover-up engulfed Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher after a former espionage agent confessed he passed wartime secrets to the Soviet Union.

The cover-up charges centered on the question of immunity from prosecution, which Thatcher previously insisted had been granted to only one man since World War II — confessed Soviet spymaster Anthony Blunt.

Blunt admitted to British intelligence in 1964 that he ran a Soviet spy ring while working as a military intelligence officer during the war and was given immunity at the time.

In the latest scandal, Leo Long, 64, a retired film company executive, confessed that he was a member of Blunt's spy ring while working in British intelligence during the war.

After the story broke in the Sunday Times, Long gave a news conference and said he confessed to British intelligence at the same time as Blunt in 1964. Long said he was given the impression when he was interviewed by MI5, the British counterespionage service, that he probably would not face prosecution.

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